

ORIGIN/ACTION

RM/R REP AF

ARA EUR FE

NEA CU INR

E P IO

L FBO AID

AGR COM FRB

INT LAB TAR

TR XMB AIR

ARMY CIA NAVY

OSD NSA

PASS 2

1056

AIRGRAM

A-113

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NO.

TO : Department of State

DEPT PASS: GUATEMALA (2)
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MRREVIEWED BY *Cap* DATE 7 OCT 1969
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

FROM : Embassy GUATEMALA

DATE:

MAY 12 1969

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY: Chart of Incidents, April 1969

REF :

1. Again in April the level of violence remained at a relatively low level, mid-way in the normal spectrum. No significant statistical variation has occurred this year. Over the last year and one half, subversive activity" seems to be running in approximately six month cycles, with its major peak in January, 1968, and minor increases recorded in July and December.

2. FAR guerrillas took credit for several attacks on buses during the transport owners strike at the beginning of the month, and the Guatemalan public generally assumes that they kidnapped, held for 17 days and then released wealthy contractor Alfredo GRANAI only after a sizeable, but undisclosed, ransom had been paid. The discovery of at least four tortured bodies in the Guatemala City area during the Tenth Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors is suspicious, but we have no information tending to identify the killers (see A-102). *Jul 23 Guatemala*

3. For the record, a student, Abraham CASTILLO Ramirez, who had taken refuge in the Argentine Embassy late in November 1968, after claiming police persecution, left Guatemala en route to Buenos Aires on the 10th. Security forces never admitted to any interest in him. With Castillo's departure, Guatemala has no asylees in local embassies.

4. The press reported at least eight disappearances of young men during the month. In a minimum of three cases, the paper reported that relatives had demanded a "public hearing" for the victims, indicating that they did not believe police reports claiming no knowledge of the disappearance.

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Clearances:

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5. Two suspicious reports reached the press from Tecpan Guatemala in the Department of Chimaltenango. On April 4, a group of five unidentified armed men, faces hidden and dressed in olive green, allegedly stole some Q.3,000, and left behind literature of a "leftist clandestine group." On the 26th, in the same area, a similar band reportedly stole Q.800, two rifles, a pistol and some clothing, but this time there was no mention of guerrilla involvement. We have no confirmation that either attack was in fact carried out by insurgents.

6. The security forces attracted the spotlight several times during the period. On May Day, at least two of the labor orators at the CONTRAGUAA rally (virtually sponsored by the Government) repeatedly attacked the comisionados militares for their arbitrary activities and at one point accused the troops in Puerto Barrios of posting election propaganda (obviously for the opposition MLN/PID candidate Col. Carlos ARANA Osorio). Military spokesmen later denied these allegations.

7. April 21, Col. José Amadeo CHINCHILLA Orellana replaced Col. Victor Manuel GAMBOA Granajo as Director General of the National Police. Gamboa became Governor of the Department of Guatemala, and a number of other governorships were rotated. Chinchilla lost no time in beginning a widely publicized campaign to rid the force of petty graft and corruption, a task reportedly laid upon him by the President himself. To date at least six policemen have been canned for taking bribes and there is no indication that the purge has ended.

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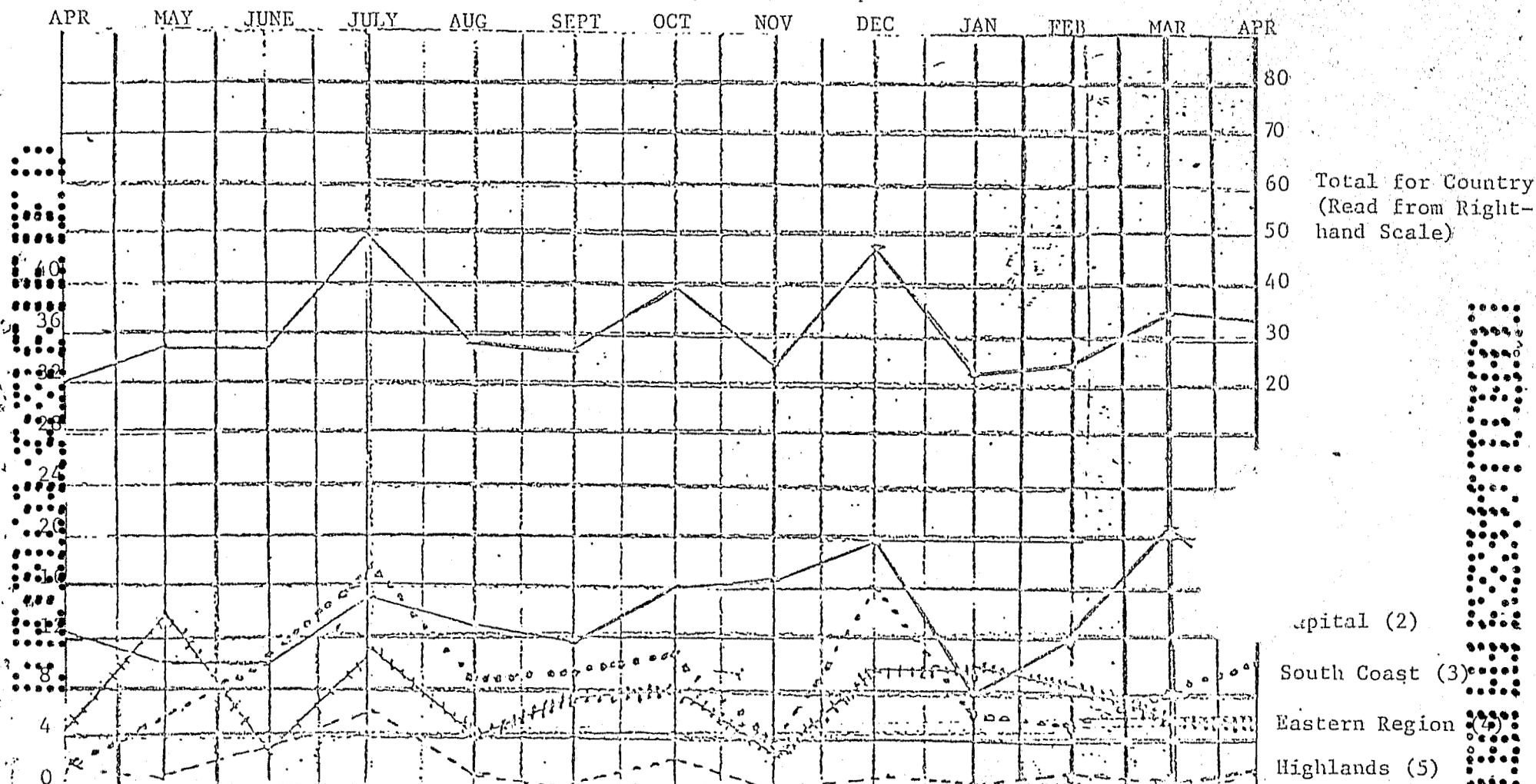
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5-12-69

MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF TERRORIST RELATED INCIDENTS BY REGION
April 1968 - April 1969



1. For purposes of this graph both acts of violence, such as shootings, bombings, etc., and assassinated bodies found are counted as incidents.
2. Capital Area includes Departments: Guatemala
3. South Coast includes Departments: San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa
4. Eastern Region includes Departments: Jutiapa, Jalapa, El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal
5. Highlands includes Departments: Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetanango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alto Verapaz, Solola

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